

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
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TRSE-00 /127 W

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R 121320Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5650
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0963

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, LY
SUBJECT: TRIPOLI WATCH: COMINGS AND GOINGS JULY 1-10, 1978

I. ARRIVALS --

1. AFGHANISTAN. AFGHAN PLANNING MINISTER SULTAN ALI KESHTMAND ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI JULY 4 AT THE HEAD OF THE FIRST AFGHAN DELEGATION TO VISIT LIBYA SINCE THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN APRIL. CONSIDERABLE MEDIA ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON THE VISIT WHICH CONCLUDED WITH THE SIGNING JULY 8 OF TWO COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, ONE ON TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE SECOND ON SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AND INFORMATION MATTERS.

2. ANGOLA. JUSTICE MINISTER DIOGENES DE ASSIS BOAVIDA VISITED LIBYA JULY 4-6 TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NETO TO QADHAFI. HE WAS RECEIVED BY THE LIBYAN LEADER JULY 5. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE STATE VISIT WAS ARRANGED BY
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INFORMATION SECRETARY ZUWAYY WHO VISITED LUANDA LAST MONTH AND WAS DESIGNED TO PREPARE THE GROUNDWORK FOR A POSSIBLE VQ IT BY THE ANGOLAN PRESIDENT OR PRIME MINISTER LATER THIS YEAR.

3. CAMEROON. AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSONAL ENVOY OF CAMEROON'S PRESIDENT AHIDJO ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI JULY 1 AND MET WITH

LIBYAN NUMBER TWO JALUD THE FOLLOWING DAY (QADHAFI WAS IN MALTA). LOCAL MEDIA STATE HE WAS CARRYING A PERSONAL LETTER TO THE LIBYAN LEADER.

4. CHAD TALKS. HIGH LEVEL DELEGATIONS FROM CHAD, NIGER, THE SUDAN, AND FROLINAT ASSEMBLED IN TRIPOLI JULY 3-6 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SUDANESE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT IN THE LATEST, UNSUCCESSFUL, ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE THE OPPOSING PARTIES IN CHAD. ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE (TRIPOLI 0945).

5. JORDAN. THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF JORDANIAN MINISTERIAL VISITS TO LIBYA BEGAN JULY 8 WITH THE ARRIVAL OF INTERIOR MINISTER SULAYMAN ARAR IN BENGHAZI. PROCEEDING TO TRIPOLI THE SAME DAY, HE MET WITH WIDE RANGE OF LIBYAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING GENERAL SECRETARIAT MEMBER AL-KHUWALAYDI AL-HUMAYDI ON JULY 10. (THE INTERIOR MINISTER IN QADHAFI'S FIRST GOVERNMENT, AL-HUMAYDI IS AN INCREASINGLY INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE FIVE-MEMBER SECRETARIAT AND IS HEAD OF THE GROWING "POPULAR MILITIA" FORCES.)

6. MADAGASCAR. PRESIDENT DIDIER RATSIRAKA ARRIVED ON A SURPRISE VISIT TO LIBYA WHICH LASTED ONLY A FEW HOURS JULY 6. NEVERTHELESS, STOP IS VIEWED AS SOMETHING MORE THAN A COURTESY VISIT, AND AFRICAN DIPLOMATS HERE SUGGEST THAT DURING HIS MEETING WITH QADHAFI, RATSIRAKA ASKED

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FOR A GREATER LIBYAN FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO MADAGASCAR IN THE WAKE OF THE SERIOUS RIOTING LAST MONTH.

7. ROMANIA. THE PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY OF THE STATE COUNCIL, SILVIU CURTICEANU, ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI JULY 9. LOCAL MEDIA GAVE NO DETAILS OTHER THAN NOTING VISIT WAS INTENDED TO PROMOTE BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

8. SUDAN. MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SUDANESE SOCIALIST UNION ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI JULY 6 AS GUESTS OF THE ARAB LIAISON BUREAU OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. DELEGATION, ACCORDING TO RADIO TRIPOLI, WAS HEADED BY DR. ABI SAN (PHONETIC). SUDAN EMBASSY STATES VISIT WAS MADE CONTINGENT ON A MEETING WITH QADHAFI, ALTHOUGH NONE TO DATE HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

9. YEMEN (ADEN). PDYR INTERIOR MINISTER SALIH MUSLIH AL-QASIM ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI JULY 6 CARRYING A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW SOUTH YEMENI LEADERSHIP EXPLAINING RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. ALTHOUGH AL-QASIM RECEIVED A RELATIVELY LOW-LEVEL (AND UNUSUAL) RECEPTION AT THE AIR-

PORT (HEADED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE ARAB LIAISON OFFICE WHICH NORMALLY DEALS WITH "PARTIES" AND NOT "GOVERNMENTS"), VISIT WAS ACCORDED CONSIDERABLE PROMINENCE IN THE PRESS, AND AL-QASIM MET WITH BOTH QADHAFI AND JALUD.

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II. DEPARTURES --

10. ALGERIA/FRANCE. LIBYAN NUMBER TWO JALUD PAID PREVIOUSLY UNANNOUNCED VISITS TO ALGERIA (JULY 9-10) AND FRANCE (JULY 10-11). VISIT TO ALGIERS IS BELIEVED TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON, WHILE RADIO TRIPOLI ANNOUNCED JULY 11 THAT JALUD HAD MET WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D-ESTAING FOR THREE HOURS THE PREVIOUS DAY, PRESUMABLY TO TRY TO WIN A FRENCH COMMITMENT TO SCHEDULE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR FORCES FROM CHAD.

11. MALTA. AHMAD SHAHATI, HEAD OF THE FOREIGN LIAISON BUREAU OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS CHAIRED THE MEETINGS OF THE "PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN PROGRESSIVE SOCIALISTS' ORGANIZATION" WHICH ENDED JULY 10.

12. ROMANIA. THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE, NURI ROMA (PHONETIC) DEPARTED FOR BUCHAREST JULY 4 TO DISCUSS

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WAYS OF INCREASING AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ROMANIA AND LIBYA. LIBYA IS EXPECTED TO ASK ROMANIA TO PROVIDE EXPERTS IN POULTRY AND SHEEP RAISING, FORESTATION AND FRUIT TREES.

13. SUDAN. FOREIGN SECRETARY TURAYKI DEPARTED FOR KHARTOUM JULY 6 TO ATTEND THE 31ST SESSION OF THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

14. SYRIA. SECRETARY FOR CULTURE AND INFORMATION ZUWAYY ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS JULY 10 ON A PREVIOUSLY UNANNOUNCED VISIT. RADIO TRIPOLI STATED HE MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-ASAD AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AL-KHADDAM THE SAME EVENING. ARAB DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE STATE PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DELIVER LETTER FROM AL-QADHAFI CALLING UPON THE SYRIANS TO STAND FIRM IN THE FACE OF ISRAELI "PROVOCATIONS" AND THE CONTINUED FIGHTING IN LEBANON. THERE IS NO INDICATION THUS FAR WHETHER ZUWAYY OFFERED ANY FINANCIAL INDUCEMENT.

15. UNITED STATES. DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE FOREIGN LIAISON BUREAU OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WAS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOR THE US JULY 3 TO ATTEND A SYMPOSIUM ON ARAB AND ISLAMIC STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA, A SECOND SYMPOSIUM WILL BE HELD IN THE SUMMER OF 1979.

16. YUGOSLAVIA. GENERAL COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES ABU BAKR YUNIS JABIR BEGAN AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA JULY 10. SEVERAL HIGH LEVEL YUGOSLAVIAN MILITARY DELEGATIONS VISITED LIBYA EARLIER THIS YEAR. ABU BAKR LAST VISITED YUGOSLAVIA OFFICIALLY IN JAN 1977.

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III. AGREEMENTS --

17. AFGHANISTAN/LIBYA.

A) ECONOMIC, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED JULY 8.

B) CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND INFORMATION COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED JULY 8.

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